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quasi inheritance, remembered the accident, and naturally attributed the deformity to this cause. It has been probably a case of "post hoc" and not "propter hoc." I grieve that you should have expended so much time, trouble and great kindness in vain. As for myself I am well accustomed in my experimental work to get definite results but once in three or four times, and thus alone can science prosper. With my renewed thanks, I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES DARWIN

The above publication did not give the dates of the letters; however, the first was in 1877 and the last in 1878.

F. A. SAMPSON

COLUMBIA, Mo.

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LUDWIG RUDOLPH SOPHUS BERGH

LUDWIG RUDOLPH SOPHUS BERGH was born in Copenhagen, October 15, 1824. His father was a military surgeon. Since his family was in moderate circumstances, he undertook at eighteen years of age to support himself during his student life, taking the medical course with zoology and general anatomy under the anatomist Ibsen and the distinguished malacologist Beck. His first paper, published in 1853, was a contribution toward a monograph of the Marseiniidæ. In the same year, during the cholera epidemic at Copenhagen, he acted as one of the medical staff formed to combat the ravages of this disease. In 1860 he received his degree of doctor of medicine at the University of Copenhagen, and was appointed three years later head surgeon for dermatology and venerology in the General Hospital; in 1881 professor of these branches in the university, and in 1885 head surgeon in charge of the newly built Vestre Hospital, erected and fitted after his own plans. This responsible position he retained until 1903, when he retired for age; two years later he ceased his private practise, and soon after, by the failure of eyesight, was obliged to relinquish his microscopical researches. He died at Copenhagen, June 20, 1909, leaving a widow and one son, his namesake.

Dr. Bergh for many years stood at the head of the small group of malacological anatomists,

devoting himself especially to the Opisthobranchiata and particularly to the group of Nudibranchiata. His published works on these animals form a small library and a mine of detailed information. The chief results of this unremitting labor are summed up in a large quarto in which he gives a complete systematic arrangement for these animals. Beside this contribution to the knowledge of molluscan anatomy he published several valuable memoirs on other groups of mollusks, an especially notable instance being a fine memoir on the anatomy of the genus *Conus*. He was largely concerned with the publication of the great posthumous series of quartos detailing the results of the researches in eastern seas by Carl Semper, who was his intimate friend. In medicine also, his publications, based on the treatment of thousands of hospital patients, took a high rank. He was naturally a member of most European societies and academies concerned in medicine or zoology, and was elected Huxley's successor in the corresponding membership of the Institute of France.

Personally, Dr. Bergh was most genial and agreeable in manner, ever ready to help younger students, or serve as cicerone to foreign colleagues visiting his beloved Copenhagen. Hospitable and unpretentious, a staunch friend and untiring student, his death leaves a gap in the ranks of the veterans which we may hardly hope to see filled, and a memory which those who knew him will cherish long.

WM. H. DALL

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Astronomical and Astrophysical Society held its tenth annual meeting at the Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, on August 19-21. Fifty members were present and forty-one papers were presented. The following are the officers for the ensuing year: *President*, E. C. Pickering; *First Vice-president*, George C. Comstock; *Second Vice-president*, W. W. Campbell; *Secretary*, W. J. Hussey; *Treasurer*, C. L. Doolittle; *Members of the Council*, W. J.